(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Computerised Centres

1586. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of computerised centres functioning under his Ministry and its subordinate offices;

(b) the number of centres out of these working in North Eastern Region;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up the computerised centres in the State of Assam during the year 1998-99; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDGE): (a) Twenty three (23).

(b) None.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) A Computer Centre at Guwahati has been established and necessary hardware and software have already been provided. The Centre is planned to be operationalised in the month of Jan. 1999.

खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग में अनियमितताएं

1587. **श्री चुन्नी लाल चौधरी:** क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग के अन्तर्गत नई दिल्ली के खादी ग्रामोद्योग भवन में वर्ष 1997-98 के लिए की गई लेखा परीक्षा के दौरान 4.25 लाख रुपये मूल्य की खादी का स्टॉक कथित रूप से कम पाया गया है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि उपरोक्त खादी ग्रामोद्योग भवन में स्टाक रजिस्टर नहीं बनाए जा रहे हैं;

(ग) यदि भाग (क) और (ख) का उत्तर "हां" में हो, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

स्टाक रजिस्टर खादी ग्रामोद्योग भवन के गोदाम में रखे जाते हैं। मात्रावार चालान-वार रजिस्टरों अर्थात आन्तरिक तथा बाहरी रजिस्टरों को विक्रय-केन्द्रों सेल्स आउटलेट में रखा जाता है।

(ग) वर्ष 1997-98 के स्टाक में कमी लेखा परीक्षा के समय नोटिस में आयी थी और यह कमी उस समय पाई गई जबकि पूर्ववर्ती वर्ष के अन्तिम स्टाक, चालू वर्ष के क्रय-विक्रय से संबंधित रजिस्टरों को सत्यापन किया गया था। न कि वास्तविक भौतिक सत्यापन के समय।

(घ) खादी तथा ग्रामोद्योग आयोग को इस मामले में आवश्यक कार्रवाई करने तथा साथ ही भविष्य में इस प्रकार की कमियों की पुनरावृत्ति से बचने के लिए उपचारात्मक उपाय शुरू करने के निर्देश दे दिये गये हैं।

Decline in sale of Khadi

1588. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the decline in sale of Khadi produced by Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) if so, what was the value of Khadi sales in the years 1996, 1997 and so far in 1998;

(c) whether Government are taking steps to boost the sale of Khadi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The value of Khadi sale in the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 is as follows:—

Year	Sales (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	567.36
1996-97	581.11
1997-98	745.90
1998-99 (April-Nov.)	624.00 (approx.)

(c) and (d) KVIC has allocated Rs. 4.48 crores for expansion of existing Bhavans and opening of new Bhavans

and Bhandars. The Government has announced continuation of rebate on sales of Khadi for the year 1998-99 also.

Rate of Industrial Production

1589. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the rate of growth in the industrial production during last three years;

(b) what has been the rate of growth of consumer *vis-a-vis* capital goods industry;

(c) whether the industrial sector is facing recessionary trends recently; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to improve the position of industrial sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) The sector wise industrial growth for the last three years is as follows:

(Base: 1993-94=100)

Sectors	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1997-98 (Apr-Sep)	1998-99 (Apr-Sep)
All Industries	12.7	5.6	6.6	6.0	3.6
Capital Goods	4.1	9.3	5.2	7.8	7.8
Consumer Goods	12.4	5.2	5.7	2.5	0.8

(c) The slow down in industrial growth can be attributed to both the domestic and external factors. The domestic factors include weak demand on account of inadequate investment in infrstructure sectors, like power, ports and transport, and slow down in general investment mainly due to capital market conditions and partly due to corporate restructuring in some industries in order to become internationally competitive. On the external side, the export growth has been negative.

The demand has been slackening for basic goods like steel, cement, commercial vehicles, capital goods as well as consumer durables. This has resulted in cut back of production by the industries and build-up of inventories.

Export growth declined to (−)5.08% during April-October 1998, following significant declaration from the peak level of 21.4% in 1995-96 to 4% in 1996-97 and 2.6% in 1997-98. As exports constitute significant proportion of total manufacturing output in the country, the decline in exports has adversely impacted industrial production.

(d) In order to arrest the slowdown in industrial growth, Government have taken various measures during the Budget 1998-99 and thereafter to stimulate and revive industrial growth.

The package of measures announced in the Budget *inter alia*, included.

(i) delicensing of coal and lignite, petroleum refining and sugar.

(ii) increase in limit for aggregate investment by NRIs raised from 5% to 10%.

(iii) rationalisation of tariff structure by introducing spescial additional duty of customs to remove disadvantages faced by the domestic industry.

(iv) Plan outlay for Energy, Transport and Communications stepped up by 35% to Rs. 61,146 crores in 1998-99 (BE) as against Rs. 45,252 crores in 1997-98 (RE).

(v) Central and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions to be set up to rationalise power tariffs.